

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WHAT: "Observations in Red: Pickett's Mill, Georgia"
the second in the series of Civil War lectures

WHO: Lawrence A Jones, MD

WHEN: Sunday, December 13, 2009, 2:30 p.m.

WHERE: Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

Museum offers second in series of Civil War Lectures

One of the earliest Civil War artifacts he remembers receiving was a Confederate sword. Being raised in Berryville, VA and listening to tales of the Civil War by his grandparents and great grandparents sparked his life-long passion for Civil War weaponry and artifacts. "My great-grandmother ran a boarding house in Washington, DC after the (Civil) War where many government workers stayed," recounts Lawrence A. Jones, MD (retired). "One of those boarders was a friend of Captain Solomon Holman, who left behind historical documents I now have in my collection," he explains.

Perhaps it was finding the name, E. W. Massey - a confederate soldier - cut into the sling of a Confederate rifle, another piece in his personal collection. Maybe it was the writings of First Lieutenant Ambrose Bierce, who wrote vividly of the "Crimes of Pickett's Mill", published in 1888 by the San Francisco Examiner. Blending his diligent historical research and first-hand knowledge of wound ballistics, Jones weaves an authentic story of the conflict witnessed by these three soldiers in "Observations Entered in Red: Pickett's Mill, Georgia", a lecture to be presented at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts on Sunday, December 13, 2009 at 2:30 PM. This lecture is sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. William Plavcan and Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Talton.

This lesser-known battle supplies the fabric for this second Civil War lecture offered by the Museum. Jones draws upon his own experience as a combat surgeon in Vietnam during 1969 to expand his knowledge of wound ballistics and uses this expertise to better understand the volumes of Civil War medical records he has combed through during his research. His wartime knowledge, his private collection of Civil War artifacts and relentless research merge well to provide a one-of-a-kind telling of this battle. The conflict at Pickett's Mill was a precursor to Sherman's march to the sea in 1864. Jones explains that, "Sherman hated this battle and never referred to it in his official reports nor his post-war writings. During Sherman's entire Atlanta campaign, over 5,000 men were killed. In perspective," Jones adds, "1,000 men died in one afternoon at Pickett's Mill."

Jones joined the United States Navy and served as a radarman on a destroyer for three years before starting his undergraduate education at George Washington University (DC) in 1955. An advanced selection for George Washington University's medical school in 1958 provided

Jones with an opportunity to complete his course work and his internship at Bethesda Naval Hospital in 1963. Between 1963 and 1964, Jones served with the second Marine Division at Camp LeJeune as a regimental surgeon. He returned to Bethesda Naval Hospital in 1964 to complete his residency in Urology and General Surgery by the end of 1968. In January 1969, Jones was shipped to a combat evacuation hospital in Vietnam and worked as a surgeon during the second Tet offensive through 1969. Jones saw first-hand the damage soldiers suffered from munitions during war and expanded his unique understanding of wound ballistics. With his service in the Navy completed in 1973, Jones moved to Hagerstown after serving as Assistant Chief of Urology at Bethesda Naval Hospital and joined the private practice originally set up by Dr. Joseph Crisp. In 1975, the four primary physicians practicing in this group, Jones, Dr. William Plavcan, Dr. John J. Donoghue and a newcomer, Dr. Hugh Talton were ex-Navy.

Retired for several years, Jones now enjoys spending time expanding his knowledge and visiting battlefields of the war's "western front," as he calls it. "Growing up, I thought the Civil War was fought in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania," offers Jones, "and now I can further research these other battles fought in the Mississippi District, i.e. those found in Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia." He has expanded his research to also include battlefields of World Wars I and II.

The Museum will offer two more lectures in conjunction with two Civil War themed-exhibitions on view; "The Unwritten War: A Visual Story of the American Civil War" now through March 21, 2010 and "Circuit of the Summer Hills: Mourning the Losses of the Civil War" from January 16 through September 19, 2010. Dr. John McCardell, Jr., Hagerstown-native and President Emeritus of Middlebury College (VT) will give an illustrated lecture, "The Civil War and Historical Memory or Memories" on Sunday, January 17, 2010 and the Maryland Humanities Council will sponsor "Frederick Douglass: A Living History" on Sunday, February 14, 2010.

Dedicated to collecting, preserving and interpreting works of art for the people of Washington County and citizens from the quad-state (MD, PA, VA, WV) region, for over seventy-eight years, the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts has been recognized as one of the finest small museums in the United States. Admission to the museum is free. It is accredited by the American Association of Museums and its collection includes over 7,000 works of art. This "crown jewel of Washington County" has an enduring commitment to arts education and to the support of regional artists. The Museum offers studio art courses, lectures, concerts, and exhibitions from its permanent collection and traveling shows. The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts is funded through support from museum membership and annual fund donations by the public, fundraising events, grants from the business and corporate communities, and support from Washington County, the City of Hagerstown, and the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. For more information on the Museum, please telephone (301) 739-5727 or visit www.wcmfa.org <<http://www.wcmfa.org>>. Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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